

Appl. No. 09/992,345
Attorney Docket No.: 10240/2
Amdt. dated October 28, 2005
Reply to Restriction Requirement of September 30, 2005

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

A restriction requirement was raised in the Official Action mailed on September 30, 2005. To facilitate the prosecution of this case, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-13, 21-38, 49 and 50, drawn to a decision making process after manufacturing data is input, classified in class 700, subclass 95, for examination. Groups II (Claims 14-20, drawn to the creation of a schedule for manufacturing, classified in class 700, subclass 100), III (claims 39-46, drawn to data processing involving printing colors, classified in class 101, subclass 115), and IV (claims 47 and 48, drawn to supply and demand forecasting, classified in class 705, subclass 10), are withdrawn; however, Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications to non-elected Groups II, III, and IV claims, and reserve the right to have the non-elected Groups II, III, and IV claims rejoined with the elected claims after allowance of at least one of the elected Group I claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse and suggest that the all of the claims in Groups I, II, III, and IV are related such that simultaneous search and examination of all claim groups identified by the Examiner would not present an undue burden and would be more efficiently performed collectively than in separate searches and examinations.

With respect to Claims 15 and 20, the Examiner has correctly identified that these two claims were incorrectly showing to be dependent from claim 1 and instead, should be dependent from claim 14. As claims 15 and 20 will be withdrawn, no amendments are made herein.

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CONCLUSION

It is believed that an action on the merits is in order and such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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